

Application Serial No. 09/869,082  
Amendment after final rejection dated June 22, 2005  
Reply to final Office action of February 22, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 through 19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) An apparatus for processing of a sample comprising:  
a microscope slide;  
a coverslip having a concave well disposed on said slide;  
said concave well having a known predetermined volume;  
wherein said concave well encloses said known predetermined volume when placed onto said microscope slide.

21. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 further comprising reagents dried thereon.

22. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20, further comprising an insert sandwiched between a portion of said coverslip and said microscope slide.

23. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein said insert comprises a control sample.

24. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said coverslip is labeled with a barcode or text.

25. (Currently amended) A method of performing an assay on a biological sample on a microscope slide, comprising:

- a) placing a biological sample on a microscope slide;
- b) providing a coverslip having a concave well of a known predetermined volume;
- c) placing said coverslip on said microscope slide;

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- d) dipping said coverslip and said slide into water, buffer, or reagent;
- e e) allowing said water, buffer or reagent to flow into the concave well; and
- f d) allowing a reaction to occur.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25 wherein said coverslip comprises a reagent predried onto it.

27 through 43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently amended) A system for performing an assay on a biological sample on a microscope slide, comprising:

- means for placing a biological sample on a microscope slide;
- means for providing a coverslip having a concave well of a known predetermined volume;
- means for placing said coverslip on said microscope slide;
- means for allowing water, buffer or reagent to flow into the concave well; and
- means for allowing a reaction to occur.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said predetermined volume is between 10 and 20  $\mu\text{L}$ .